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it was in 1870. Another interesting and suggestive fact brought out was that in all three townships there was a definitely larger proportion of males than females in the population. This excess of males was particularly striking in the statistics of minors in one township, which showed 168 males to 118 females. Quite as interesting was the predominance of males among the residents over forty-five years of age. This was characteristic of each township, the total being 247 males for 189 females. These statistics are still more interesting when considered in connection with the statistics of some of our larger cities, which show just the opposite condition, namely, an excess of females over males between the ages of sixteen to twenty-one.

It has become proverbial with us that the young man goes out into the world to seek his fortune, leaving his sister behind. In the twentieth century, perhaps it is the young man who stays at home, while the girl leaves in search of adventure and opportunity. The rural church is now a center of interest with students of rural life. In the three townships, with an aggregate population of 2,078 in 1914, eighteen sects are represented. Of this population 44 per cent in C. Township, 39 per cent in L., and 22 per cent in M. were church members. The townships having the largest number of church organizations had the fewest church members. The causes for this, as the survey points out, are not simple or easy to find. They are the most decisive evidences, perhaps, of the decline in the rural regions of the communal sentiment.

The second edition of the *Chicago Social Service Directory*, prepared by Valeria D. McDermott, Annie E. Trotter, and Commissioner Louise Osborne Rowe, is a decided improvement upon the first in several points, notably in the more careful classification of agencies, the more complete and detailed directory, and the general appearance. In many respects this little volume is a model of its kind and will be interesting as such to students and welfare workers outside the city of Chicago.

ROBERT E. PARK

UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

American City Progress and the Law. By HOWARD LEE MCBAIN.
New York: Columbia University Press, 1918. Pp. 268.
\$1.50.

A most valuable contribution to the literature on the affairs of cities has been made by Professor McBain in this book. The work consists primarily of an examination of the existing legal principles and the

extent to which they facilitate or obstruct the application of any policy involving a change in the handling of municipal problems.

In an effective manner the direction which municipal legislation may take most successfully with least opposition by the courts, as well as the types of laws and policies which would most probably be unsuccessful, are indicated. This however is not the chief purpose of the study.

The book is divided into nine chapters of which the first two deal with the powers of constitutional and statutory origin and of the interpretation of those powers by the courts. The remaining chapters of the book deal with the power of cities to control nuisances, city planning—including building regulations and excess condemnation—public utilities, living costs, recreation, and commerce and industry.

There is no attempt made to present the different points of view regarding the various topics dealt with. The purpose is rather to present the law as it stands, and in this the author has made an important contribution to the study of municipal affairs. The book includes a valuable table of cases bearing on the subject and is adequately indexed. It should prove of great value to city officials, to the layman who is interested in making his city a better place in which to live, as well as to the student of municipal problems.

MANUEL C. ELMER

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Disasters and the American Red Cross in Disaster Relief. By J. BYRON DEACON. New York: Russell Sage Foundation, 1918. Pp. 230. \$0.75.

This little book is the first of several which the Russell Sage Foundation has in preparation under the general title of "Social Work Series." It is directed to two groups—the professional social workers who are likely to be called upon for service at a time of disaster and the laymen who, as citizens, are interested in the "social" handling of community problems. To the former, what Mr. Deacon offers is a handbook—a suggestive compilation of fact and principle. To the latter, the whole disaster relief problem is opened up in a very readable way. Each chapter, such as that on "Disasters at Sea," "Coal-Mine Disasters," "Floods, Fires, Tornadoes," is made complete in itself—with a presentation of the problem, an outline of the methods used in dealing with it, well-chosen "case stories" as illustrative matter, and a summary of the principle applied or evolved. Though the reiteration of these principles may seem unduly insistent to the professional workers, it serves